MARVEL

86

DEFALCO
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BUSCEMA

SKRULL WARS!

SPIDER-GIRL®

The daughter of the original Spider-Man, May "Mayday" Parker has inherited her father's amazing powers. Possessing the proportionate strength, speed, and agility of a spider, as well as the ability to cling to walls, she now follows in his web-lines! Stan Lee presents...

SPIDER-GIRL

PREVIOUSLY

Possessing the power cosmic, Apox, the Omega Skrull, is sent to destroy the Fantastic Five, but is defeated thanks to the heroic efforts of Spider-Girl.

During his engagement party to Brenda Drago, Normie Osborn is temporarily bonded with the Venom symbiote.

After freeing Normie from Venom's control, Spider-Girl is shocked when he decides to keep the symbiote and exploit its power.

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Family Business

In your father's day, the ***Fantastic Four*** was the world's greatest super-team.

Over the years, the ***Four*** became ***Five.***

The ***Human Torch*** and the ***Thing*** are still members, but ***Mr. Fantastic*** and the ***Invisible Woman*** have been replaced by ***Ms. Fantastic, Psi-Lord*** and ***Big Brain.***

Franklin "Psi-Lord" Richards invited you over to his headquarters about an hour ago--

--and somehow conned you into playing *Capture the Flag* with the ***next*** generation of ***FS***ers.

Your name is ***May "Mayday" Parker*** and you are the daughter of ***Spider-Man.***

Get in the game, ***Doom--***

--and help your teammates stomp ***Spider-Girl*** and ***Frankie!***

I don't have time for such foolishness, ***Torus.***

It's bad enough that I have to help baby-sit you kids while your parents are away.

Besides, it's obvious that ***Rad*** and ***Grim*** already have Spider-Girl cornered and-- ***Heyyyy!***

Oooo! Looks like someone wasn't expecting a *reverse somersault.*

Such carelessness could prove *fatal* in a real fight.

B-b-but--!

Doom's real name is ***Kristoff Vernard,*** and he's the former ward of the FF's greatest enemy.

You might have scored on ***Mr. Personality,*** but my brother and I know how to work as a team.

Get her, Jacob!

Alyce "Rad" Grimm is the Thing's daughter--

--but her twin seems to have inherited their dad's looks and personality.

Consider her--***whoa!***

Never expected ***that*** maneuver.

HA-HA! It may be ***crude,*** but ya gotta admit it's ***effective.***

Is she *laughing* at Jake--?

You need to keep your head in the game, Alyce, or you'll lose your--*oops! Too late!*

Th-that was *fun!*

A little *embarrassing,* but still *fun.*

Thanks for being such a good sport, big guy.

This game would have had a different ending if I was playing.

You're the son of the *Torch* and *Ms. Fantastic,* right?

Yeah, and I'm already the most powerful FSer of them all--

--since I have my mom's shape-changing abilities and my dad's heat powers.

I call myself *Super-Storm* whenever I'm allowed to play hero--

--which *isn't* very often.

Out of my way, small fry.

I want a word with little miss webs.

I don't appreciate people who laugh at my little bro.

I...I didn't mean anything by it.

A-and I was laughing *with* him...not *at* him.

Simmer down, kiddo. Spider-Girl and I are fine.
B-but she made you look like a fool!
It was just a *game*, Alyce. We're all friends here.
You have to excuse Rad.
She's always been a little overprotective since she can change back and forth from her energy form, but Jake...
Welll, what you see is *all* you get.
She also gets a little antsy whenever the adults are on mission.
Where are they, anyway?
It'll be easier to *show you* than try to explain.
Hold up a minute, Torus. I'm not sure that's wise.
What's the harm, Frankie? Spider-Girl's practically family.
I...I didn't mean to intrude on the F5's private business.
Everything's cool, Spidey-- *really!*
The team is on a little jaunt into the area of *sub-space* that's known as the *Negative Zone*.
Wow! I've read about this place.
It's supposed to be a universe of *unlimited dimensions* and a gateway to the *crossroads of infinity*.
Yeah.
I...I *guess*.
÷Ahem÷

If you don't mind, I had an ulterior motive for inviting Spider-Girl.

We need to discuss something in private.

Thanks for the tour, Torus. You're a real sweetie.

A... *sweetie?!*

What's up, Franklin?

Is it possible that he still harbors feelings for you?

Did he bring you here to ask you out?

My uncle Johnny asked me to find out what actually went down with your friend and the *Venom* symbiote.

According to the official police report, you tossed the creature into an oven--

--but *killing* doesn't sound like you.

So what *really* happened?

It's...kind of *complicated...* and I really don't have time to explain.

How's about I give you a call later?

Way to go, cuz!

The girl was obviously into me, but you chased her off like a real pro.

Torus...

Shut up!

Great!

Just *great!*

Franklin is a *telepath.*

What if he already read your mind and knows that *Normie Osborn* secretly decided to keep the *Venom* symbiote?

Will he send the *FS* after Normie--

--or just rat you out to your dad?

It's a pleasure to finally meet you, *Mr. Osborn*...and your lovely fiancée, *Ms. Drago.*

OSBORN PLAZA

Please allow me to express my condolences over the passing of your dear mother. I worked with her for many years. She was a great lady.

Thank you, Mr. Stevins. She always spoke very highly of you.

What can I do for the majority stockholder of the *Osborn Corporation?*

Since you are the company's chief executive officer, I want you to teach me the business from the ground up.

Heh-

Why the sudden interest in the family business? Are you planning to take over my job someday?

You needn't worry, Mr. Stevins.

My goals are much *higher.*

You really gave that pompous fool a fright, Norman.

I've never seen you act with such confidence before.

I told you I was a *changed* man, Brenda.

I recently learned how to tap into my *inner strength--*

--and this is only the *beginning.*

So how is Moose doing?

OWN
GH
OOL DISTRICT

Not well.

His father's test results came in and...

...it's definitely *cancer.*

Oh, no!

How bad is it?

The doctors don't really know.

At least that's what they told Moose.

Chris, is it really true that you stood up to the *Venom* symbiote?

Absolutely, Mandy.

I can't say I wasn't afraid, but I didn't let that stop me from going off on him.

The *Human Torch* was so impressed that he started calling me *"Wild Man Jarkoer."*

Hey, Chris...

M-May--?!

I...I was just... uhhhh...

Oh, man!

Look at the time.

Gotta run--!

W-Wild Man--?!

What's with Chris all of a sudden?

He's a teenage boy.

'Nuff said!

Chris is making himself out to be a big hero, but he actually panicked when he saw Venom.

Should you bust him--

--or keep his *secret*--

--just like *Normie?*

At that very moment--

--warning sirens across the *Earth* suddenly begin to howl--

--as a beam of coherent energy flashes past the planet's *orbital defense system.*

The beam's trajectory is immediately plotted to a remote area in upstate *New York.*

Secure the base!

We may be under attack.

Unknown to the general public, *Mount Athena* serves as a maximum security prison--

--and was built to withstand nuclear Armageddon.

Instead of detonating on contact, the beam harmlessly passes through the heavily fortified mount--

--seeking the deepest sub-levels.

Attention all tactical squads--the base has apparently been compromised, but we still don't know *how* or *why.*

If anyone knows *anything,* please report now.

Sub-level 119 reporting--

--*Prisoner Omega* is registering a sudden influx of *energy,* and the readings are *off* the scale.

You need to *lock down* the base and send immediate *reinforcements.*

Although I *doubt* it'll do much good.

THOOM

THOOM

THOOM

THA KOOOM!

APOX lives!

At long last, the *Skrull High Command* has seen fit to forgive my past failures--

--and restore me to full *glory!*

Created was I to be the ultimate *warrior--*

--and wield the *POWER COSMIC!*

Though these Earthborn primates have defeated me in the past--

--terrible and swift will be my VENGEANCE!

Once I have completed my sacred mission and exterminated the team that was once known as the *Fantastic Four--*

--I can return to the *Skrull Homeworld* and assume my rightful place as a *living god.*

We need to speak to the Human Torch.

I'm afraid he is away on a mission, Stinger. Anything I can do?

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, Psi-Lord, but we were just informed that one of your old enemies has escaped Mount Athena.

He calls himself Apox, the Omega Skrull, and he's headed your way.

Since you're obviously shorthanded at the moment, the Avengers will dispatch a team to try to intercept him.

Thanks for the heads-up--

--and the assist!

Oh, man! I heard about this Apox guy. He's supposed to be a pretty tough character.

Maybe we should call my dad and the others.

You think--?!?

I'm afraid I have bad news in that regard. I've been unable to raise the team for the past hour.

I assumed it was merely due to subspace interference...but I now suspect the communications breakdown may be intentional.

Big deal! We don't need them.

I'm part Skrull. I can probably take this creep on my own.

Are you serious?

We couldn't even beat Spider-Girl.

Only because you wouldn't let me play!

Spider-Girl!

She played a pivotal role in Apox's last defeat and may also be in danger.

Get her on the line! We need to warn her immediately.

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

ZEEEEEE

ZEEEEEE

Wonderful!

It's Franklin.

ZEEEEEEE

Probably wants to follow up on *Venom*.

While you doubt he can read your mind over the phone, you still don't relish the idea of *lying* to a friend and--

M-Moose--?

What are you doing here?

You... okay?

ZEEEEE

I...I'm *sniff* great.

I just *sniff* got something caught in my eye...but everything's gonna be fine.

Just *fine*.

KLIK

I'm here if you want to talk, big guy.

Nah!

It's nothing important.

Y-your phone's ringing.

Better answer it.

ZEEEEE

Even as *Apox* streaks toward New York City--

--his progress is noted by a *spaceship* in permanent geosynchronous orbit around the Earth.

It is the home and headquarters of the man called *Nova*, the self-styled Protector of the Planet.

Without hesitation, he streaks across the heavens with the force of a runaway comet--

--determined to intercept the alien invader.

Unfortunately...

QWA-TWANGGG!

...not even the *Human Rocket* can stop the *POWER COSMIC!*

I...

I'm just so +sniff+ scared.

I know, Moose.

EEEEE

D-do you have to get that?

NO.

That's far ENOUGH!

By order of the **Avengers**, I command you to surrender at once or suffer the consequences.

HA!

I am **APOX, the shatterer of worlds**, and I have nothing to fear from any mere metal-covered mortal.

Destiny decrees that you must **move** from my path--

--or DIE!

KRAAAASH!

Before you start feeling all sorts of proud of yourself, I gotta tell you that ***Mainframe'll*** be back together in no time.

Maybe even before ***Thunderstrike*** parks the ***Quinjet*** that I just ditched.

Cowabunga, dude!

You'n me are takin' an express ride to the basement.

Brace yourself! My landings can be a little rough.

Fool! A warrior who can dodge ***meteors*** and outrace ***solar storms***--

--can easily ***elude*** a clumsy oaf like you.

Whoopsie--!

A *cosmic blast* shall increase your momentum--

--and add to your *MISERY!*

KWA-WAAAAAA

You just crossed a major line, dude.

J2 may be practically *invulnerable*, but it could take him *hours* to dig his way out of that hole--

THRAKA!-KOOOOM!

--and there will be absolutely no living with him if he gets stuck in the *sewer system.*

Are you *insane*, mortal--

--or merely *suicidal?*

How dare you match your puny blasts against my *power cosmic?*

And you will pay for calling me "*dude*".

While the term's true meaning escapes me, I sense that it expresses *derision*--

--and is unworthy of a *living god!*

ARRRGH!

You going to be *okay*, big guy?

I *guess*...

Look, I'm supposed to meet Courtney at the library, but I...I really want to thank you for...well... *you know.*

Hey, that's what friends *do.*

Yeah, friends stand by each other.

Like you've been standing by *Normie*--

--even though you don't agree with his decision.

But *Franklin* is also a friend--

--and deserves the *truth.*

You've procrastinated long enough, girl.

Time to face the music--

--and pray that Franklin stands by *you.*

You're really starting to make me *angry*, mister--

--and you won't *like* me when I'm angry.

Bad enough that you flattened my pal--the *Sub-Mariner*--but I was in the middle of a family barbecue when I got drafted into this mess.

I'm warning you now--*you're gonna wish you invaded another planet if my burger gets cold!*

While your words make little *sense*, your actions are more than *clear*--

--and *Apox* will crush you like an impudent flea.

NEW YORK
DXY 788

Dream on! You're not the first cosmically-powered joker I've tackled.

The HULK is the strongest one of all!

It may take me a while, but you are going down--

--because the madder I get, the stronger I get!

So you are the legendary Hulk?

Your fame has spread to the farthest reaches of the Skrull Empire.

Oh, what an epic battle we would have if I could only spare the time--

--but, alas, my mission cannot be delayed.

Thus, I must choose expedience over honor.

W-what's the big idea?

I am sending you to the outer edge of Earth's atmosphere--

--where you will drift harmlessly--

--while I attend to the Fantastic Five!

I'm afraid we've failed to stop Apox.

We are currently activating all our reserve **Avengers** and will rush backup to your location.

Stinger, I...I think you should remain at ***Avengers Mansion*** where you can continue to direct your team's efforts.

Sorry, Kristoff.

Request denied.

You're sounding more like a **boyfriend** than a **strategist.**

Rad! Grim! I want you to supervise the evacuation of all civilian personnel from the building.

Take ***Torus*** with you and seek refuge with the ***Avengers.***

Forget it, man! I'm not missing my big chance to prove myself.

This is no game, Torus--

Apox is as powerful as the ***Silver Surfer*** and can easily ***kill*** us all.

And you ***think*** we're just going to desert you and Doom--?!

DUDE, our daddy raised us ***better.***

I appreciate the sentiment, but you kids are my responsibility--

--and I will ***not*** allow you to put yourselves at risk.

I gave you a direct order.

Obey it!

Ahem

Have I come at a bad time?

You all right, Franklin?

You seem a tad stressed.

Spider-Girl, you need to grab the kids and get them out of here.

NOW!

Uhhhh...

Sure.

Okay.

Whatever.

Mind if I ask what crawled up your--*uh-oh!*

What *is* it? What's *wrong?*

I suddenly sense *danger--*

--of the ever-*escalating* variety!

Something tells me that things are about to get particularly--

Be Continued...!

INTERLUDE:

The world knows her as ***Ladyhawk,*** a costumed identity she shares with her twin sister.

You can call *911* now, sis.

The hijackers are ready for pickup.

That didn't take long.

You feel like meeting at the warehouse for lunch?

I'm in the mood for Chinese.

Sounds like a plan. I could go for some fried dumplings, a combo #5 and a--HOLY--!

KRKKR-SSHLUMPPP

What's with the weird sound, sis?

C'mon! Don't leave me hanging!

What's going on there?

Sis--?!?

In the weeks to come, both ***Ladyhawks*** will face the greatest challenge of all. Who will ***live?*** Who will ***die?*** And who will be...

...THE LAST HERO STANDING?

PREMIERING WEEKLY IN JUNE